OPINION

Progress being made if you stop and look

By DAVID BAUM

Those who complain no progress is being made in the Carbondale area just don't see what is actually going on in this community. All those who have moaned and groaned for years should take a minute to step back and consider these developments:

- The M&M Bank building on North Main Street, abandoned for years, was recently sold to the David Adams CATV Inc. firm and an extensive $250,000 renovation program has begun, with a new roof now being installed. New offices and even a television studio will be built according to the preliminary plans, which also include restoring the front of the building to what it used to look like years ago.

- The J.J. Newberry store is undergoing a $60,000 facelift and improving its merchandizing line. The firm's investment shows the city it intends to stay in business here, a good sign of encouragement.

- The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall Inc. has paid for the $3,000 repairs made to the clock tower. Their efforts wouldn't have been possible if local and former residents hadn't chipped in the donations, which now total over $5,800. A major fund drive is in the works to help pay for a new roof and the building is a candidate for the National Registry of Historic Landmarks. The committee's commitment to saving the building from the wrecking ball has helped keep and improve an important Pennsylvania landmark.

- Glass Products Inc. moved into town, hired 27 area people after moving into the vacant Tioga plant on the West Side. More personnel are being hired and the business looks like it is flourishing well since it moved into the Pioneer City from New Jersey.

- North East Safety Products also moved into the city, taking over one of the old Hendrick Manufacturing Co. complex buildings. Although the firm is just about ready to start production of the safety glass reflectors it manufactures and has hired several people., with more hirings possible this year.

- The Old Casino Hall and Teen Center has been officially opened for area teenagers to enjoy and with the Old Armory and the Belmont Neighborhood Association Community House and playground, city youngsters within the past year have been given plenty of places to go to spend their time constructively with their friends.

- With the city about to hire at least two people from the upcoming civil service exam for the position of police officer, Police Chief Francis Dottle will have two more officers to help the shorthanded department tackle a mountain of work that lays before them.

There are more positive measures being taken in and around Carbondale that aren't mentioned here. Certainly more are planned for the near future. Sure, some issues such as the Dundaff Street Viaduct demolition seem like they will never be solved. But change takes time, as most people know.

But anyone who can take a look at the abovementioned examples and can still come away and complain "Nothing positive is being done here" is either a born pessimist or one that can't acknowledge the facts.